

Other Literacy Initiatives

Partnership for Successful Schools' "One to One" Coaching Project

The Partnership for Successful Schools, a coalition of Kentucky businesses, educational groups, and government officials, believes that business has both a stake and a role to play in helping children learn to read. It has developed *One to One: Practicing Reading with Students*.

One to One is more than a reading program. It provides a business with the support and resources it needs to start a volunteer program in a local elementary school, train its employees to work one-on-one helping children with their reading, keep informed on the most recent reading test data, and use that data to make decisions in local communities. Reading practice sessions are presented in focused 35-minute slots; coaches receive step-by-step instructions on how to maximize every minute of that time to help students practice the vital skill of reading. Businesses and their volunteer coaches will receive continuing support through a web site, which provides updated testing data and coaching tips.

The *One to One* project includes 79 reading coaches from 12 companies and organizations. These coaches serve 10 Kentucky schools.

Early Childhood Literacy and Math Regional Academies

These academies are designed as a graduate-level professional development program through partnerships with universities. District teams of preschool teachers, coordinators and administrators attend a rigorous week-long training, with follow-up activities, to improve language, literacy and math practice and child outcomes through research-based instruction. Participants develop a standards-based unit to demonstrate proficiency. The average number of participants is 100-150, and 2007 will mark the third year of the academies.

Kentucky Reading Project (KRP)

KRP is an educational intervention developed by the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development (CCLD) and was created in 1998. The goal of KRP is to increase student achievement in literacy by improving knowledge and instructional practices of K-5 teachers through the design and implementation of a comprehensive literacy program in classroom settings.

The KRP is a year-long, graduate-level reading course that consists of a two-week summer institute, four follow-up sessions during the year, and at least one coaching visit to each teacher in the project. Faculties from the eight public universities serve as directors and instructional leaders for KRP. Reading First coaches from KDE work in collaboration with the directors, and training specialists from the National Center for Family Literacy also work with KRP to provide information, resources, and support regarding family involvement in literacy. Since 1998, 2,213 teachers have participated in KRP.

Striving Readers

Kentucky was one of eight states to receive federal funding from the U.S. Department of Education's Striving Readers program to improve literacy in middle and high schools. The Kentucky Content Literacy Consortium, led by the Collaborative for Teaching and Learning, received approximately \$17 million to fund research-based reading intervention services and content-area literacy instruction. Each school involved employs a school literacy coach, who teaches reading intervention courses to students in the sixth and ninth grades, two or more grade levels behind in reading. The coach also helps teachers in implementing content area literacy strategies. Seven districts and 23 schools in Kentucky share in this grant endeavor with Danville Independent Schools serving as the fiscal agent for the grant.

Early Reading First

This program supports the development of early childhood centers of excellence that focus on all areas of development, especially on early language, cognitive, and pre-reading skills that prepare children for continued school success and that serve primarily children from low-income families. Federally funded, the Early Reading First grants can be applied for by Local Education Agencies (LEAs). In 2004, the Ohio Valley Education Cooperative received an Early Reading grant for \$3.9 million over three years. Also in 2004, Whitley County received \$4.5 million over three years. In 2005, Covington Independent received \$3.7 million over three years.

Unite to Read

Unite to Read is a statewide project designed by Kentucky's Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) along with the Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP) and the Future Educators of America (FEA). In the fall of 2004, the state advisors from each student organization developed the project as a joint partnership with Kentucky Educational Television (KET). In 2005-06 the Kentucky Council of Economic Education partnered with the project and provided economic strategies and lesson plans. The goal is to have Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) within a school or district work together in promoting literacy and lifelong reading. Project activities are offered throughout the school year, with a "Share the Story" night being hosted statewide. The Kentucky Jumpstart Coalition has become a professional partner to continue awareness of the importance of financial literacy and its connection to this year's featured book.

Northern Kentucky Council of Partners (NKCP)

KDE provided funding for NKCP to align previously designed curriculum modules and end of course assessments in English/Language Arts with the new Core Content for Assessment (CCA) and Program of Studies (POS). Teachers received training on the new CCA, POS, Depth of Knowledge (DOK), ACT Standards for Transition, on-demand writing questions, and analytical writing. Then, teachers revised modules to include connections to CCA, POS, and ACT Reading and Writing. Passage-based on-demand questions, tighter connections to

ACT skills, and strategies for reading and writing expository texts across the curriculum were added to the modules.

End-of-course assessments are being developed for English I, II, III and IV based on the content covered in the modules and will be formatted so they can be administered on-line or by paper and pencil. On-line testing will allow for analysis of performance based on standards.

Kentucky Writing Project (KWP)

The Kentucky Writing Project is a university-based teacher-centered program that includes 20 teachers from across all levels of instruction, elementary school through university, and is offered at 8 regional university sites (Murray State, University of Kentucky, Western Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University, University of Louisville, Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University and Hazard Community Technical College.). The purpose of the project as established by the National Writing Project is to:

- provide teachers with a setting in which they can demonstrate their own best teaching practices;
- help teachers broaden and make more conscious the grounds of their teaching through an examination of writing theory and research;
- give teachers of writing an opportunity to commit themselves intensely and reflectively to the process of writing as members of a community of writers and as reviewers of each others' written pieces in small editing/response groups;
- identify and prepare a corp of writing teachers who can effectively teach successful approaches and processes of teaching writing to other teachers.

After participating in a KWP, teachers plan and conduct staff development workshops on the teaching of writing. KWP offers advanced institutes and additional workshops for teachers throughout the state of Kentucky.

Kentucky Writing Project State Network Achievement Gap Institutes

Regional institutes are offered to teachers, focusing on particular student populations: English Language Learner, Special Education, Gender, and Cultural/Economic differences. This professional development is a way to build capacity in schools to help all students succeed. During the institutes, participants plan ways to deliver professional development for their school staffs. Participants also examine data to pinpoint their schools' achievement gaps and learn about strategies for improving literacy skills across all content areas.

Kentucky Writing and Learning Academy (WLA)

Supported by funds from KDE, a Writing and Learning Academy was conducted in 2006 for K-12 teachers. The four-day workshops in eight locations focused on ways to use different types of writing to promote students' learning and development as writers. The WLA draws on the expertise of Kentucky Writing Project Fellows to conduct the workshops. 120 schools representing 56 districts were served with 141 teachers participating in the training.